

FIRE FIGHTERS BEWARE

Failures of large diameter fittings and adapters have been happening all too often. A recent in plant incident of an intake of a 5" line on an engine struck a person in the head and almost killed them. Evaluating the broken ell revealed internal corrosion on the inside of the ell swivel joint where it was attached to the apparatus discharge. The ell had moderate corrosion as well. The ell's were installed in 1987 to accommodate 5" Storz connections. This again shows the need for caution when working around pressurized fire hose. Attached are the pictures showing both ell's and the Storz fitting that was attached.

The NFPA has a committee looking at the issue of adapters and hose fittings. Currently there is no standard that address these issues. There is no pressure rating that must pass. All of this is in the committee system. The new standard will require a minimum pressure rating of 900 psi test pressure with a working pressure of 300 psi.

